

Virginia African American Advisory Board
Norfolk State University
June 23, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
******DRAFT******

Virginia African American Advisory Board Members Present:

Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Chair, Rev. Cozy Bailey, Vice Chair, Cameron Patterson, Secretary, Gaylene Kanoyton, Precious Muhammad, Tia Yancey, Monica Reid, Olivia Saunders, Karen Dongo, Eldon Burton, Robert Barnett, Hope Cupit, Toria Edmunds-Howell,

Administration Officials Present:

- Rosa Atkins, Acting Chief Diversity, Opportunity, and Inclusion Officer
- Suzanne Holland, Special Assistant for Board Administration

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green at 12:15 p.m. Dr. Ivey Green turned it over to Suzanne Holland who mentioned issues regarding virtual meeting security. As result it has caused some adjustments to the online meeting platform. The Secretary of the Commonwealth issued a statement to participants in the meeting and vowed to make security upgrades. As result we will be using zoom and requiring registration. Further updates were provided during an All Chairs Call for the Advisory Board.

Dr. Ivey Green offered some opening comments. She mentioned her meeting with Secretary Kay Cole-James to further relationships and meeting with Dr. Atkins. Dr. Ivey Green thanked Norfolk State University and the President Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston for hosting. Dr. Ivey Green also thanked Gaylene Kanoyton for helping to solidify logistics and make connections as well. Dr. Ivey Green then mentioned the Small Black Business Panel on June 29, at the Varina Area Library in Henrico County. This event is being led by members Rev. Cozy Bailey and Keren Charles Dongo.

Dr. Ivey Green then referenced efforts to put together the annual report for presentation to Governor Youngkin. And then she ended her opening comments with a special recognition of outgoing members Gaylene Kanoyton, Shirley Ginwright, and Eduardo Lopez. Each of the outgoing members offered some remarks regarding their service to the Virginia African American Advisory Board. Dr. Ivey Green then offered a special recognition for former member the late Yvonne Lewis.

Dr. Ivey Green turned it over to Cameron for consideration and approval of the April 26, 2022 minutes. The motion to approved the minutes was offered by Hope Cupit and seconded by Galene Kanoyton. The following members offered approval of the minutes (Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Rev. Cozy Bailey, Cameron Patterson, Gaylene Kanoyton, Precious Muhammad, Tia Yancey, Monica Reid, Olivia Saunders, Karene Dongo, Eldon Burton, Robert Barnett, Hope Cupit, Toria Edmunds-Howell).

Dr. Ivey Green welcomed Dr. Rosa Atkins, Acting Chief Diversity, Opportunity, and Inclusion Officer. Dr. Atkins shared updates on behalf of the Youngkin Administration including some budget highlights impacting the African American Community across Virginia. Members engaged in questions with Dr. Adkins regarding her presentation. Questions were asked related to the Dream Act, Criminal Justice.

Dr. Ivey Green transitioned to committee meetings. Rev. Cozy Bailey shared some remarks regarding the report to the Governor and gave some instructions for the committee breakouts. He then facilitated the conversation regarding updates to the full board once the committees returned from the breakout sessions. Upon return from the committee breakout sessions each committee shared an update regarding issues that will be offered in the report to the Governor. These issues will continue to be refined.

Monica Reid offered a report on behalf of the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee. The committee discussed issues related to pre-trial and gun violence, violent crime task force, and finding community as part of the recommendations that they will offer. Cameron Patterson in the absence of the Committee Chairs offered a report on behalf of the Education Committee. Gaylene Kanoyton offered a report on behalf of the Health and Environment Committee. The committee's recommendations will focus on gun violence as a public health crisis, access to public health in rural and urban areas, environmental issues related to water and air quality, keeping salaries competitive with staff in state and private industry. The Small Black Owned Business Committee report was shared by Kerene Charles Dongo. She shared about the focus of recommendations on the intentionality of funding to ensure that Black owned businesses are left out, data collection. Gaylene Kanoyton mentioned the SWAM program.

Dr. Ivey Green then turned it over to Cameron Patterson to facilitate the public comment section of the meeting. Cameron Patterson, Secretary asked if any individuals present in the audience would like to introduce themselves to the Board and share comments. Carl Jackson spoke and introduced himself to the Board. Mr. Jackson indicated that he is a Transportation Planner with the City of Portsmouth. He spoke about the importance of transportation and transit funding as an issue to be tackled. Jevon Baskerville introduced himself to the Board. He stated that he is a Teacher at Phoebus High School and Owner and Principal of Baskerville Strategies. Cameron concluded Public Comment with no further participation.

Dr. Ivey Green thanked those who attended the meeting for their participation. In her closing remarks and announcements, she indicated that Suzanne would be in touch with details regarding our next meeting, which is likely to be held at Virginia Union University. She also mentioned that Hope Cupit will present on the survey results. Karen put in a final plug for the Black Table Talk program on June 29.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.